

the voltaic current they act readily, and their daily stimulation, by its means, tends to maintain their contractility. This is, it is true, of no avail if no recovery takes place in the spinal cord, but in most cases some recovery in the cord does occur, and when, after months, the new elements regain the power of conducting the voluntary impulse, the muscles are in a better condition to respond to it if they have been regularly galvanized than if they have been left alone." Such a clear statement of fact sweeps away the fraudulent claims of cures in infantile paralysis, so often urged in the past, and will commend itself to every one who has used electricity with care in these cases. In discussing its application in myelitis and locomotor ataxia, he is equally frank in affirming that it has little influence in affecting the pathological processes. In the treatment of peripheral lesions, the use of electricity is warmly advocated, and clear directions are given as to the method of its application. It might have been well to have been more specific in regard to the strength of the constant current used, the necessity of proper galvanometric measurements, and the duration of the applications. Those who have De Watteville's admirable little work on electricity can, however, supplement what is lacking here.

While the printing of the book and its general appearance are attractive, it is to be regretted that the many figures, which are of great importance to the pathologist, are so poorly executed. Whether this applies to the English edition, as well as to the American reprint, we are unable to state. But wood-engraving has attained such a point of excellence in this country that there is no excuse for neglecting to provide for a proper production of cuts in a work of such importance.

If the second volume, which will treat diseases of the brain, reaches the standard of excellence attained by the first volume, there will be no necessity for the publication of another work on nervous diseases for some time to come.

M. A. S.

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#### **A Brief Synopsis of the Various Points Involved in the Coarse Examination of the Brain and Spinal Cord.**

By FRANCIS X. DERCUM, M.D., Pathologist to State Hospital for Insane at Norristown; Instructor in Nervous Diseases, University of Pennsylvania. **First Annual Report of Pathology Department.** By FRANCIS X. DERCUM, M.D., and IDA V. REEL, M.D., Pathologists. Reprinted from the Sixth Annual Report of State Hospital for the Insane, S. E. District of Pennsylvania, at Norristown, Pennsylvania, 1885.

These two brief monographs, from the laboratory of the State Hospital for the Insane at Norristown, Pennsylvania, should be cordially welcomed by every one who has the cause of scientific psychiatry at heart. The abundant material for pathological research which is furnished by State insane hospitals has, in large part, been neglected in Pennsylvania as in other commonwealths. The appointment of pathologists, both resident and visiting, for

the Norristown Hospital was a promise of good for the future; and both Drs. Dercum and Reel are deserving of great credit for the manner in which they have responded to the opportunities afforded them.

In the synopsis of *Coarse Examinations*, the points are presented in a terse, systematic manner. They indicate that the author of the pamphlet is a practical observer and worker. The autopsies of cases are as large a number, we are safe in saying, as have been given to the profession during the entire existence of some of our older State institutions for the insane. Not a few of the reports are unduly brief and somewhat imperfect; but in these cases special circumstances doubtless prevented fuller investigation. In a large number of the cases, brief but sufficient notes of microscopical examinations are appended to the accounts of the megascopic lesions. Clinical histories are not presented in connection with the cases, which is much to be regretted. Some of the autopsies reported are of especial value, as, for instance, Case No. XXXVII., a female, aged 45 to 50 years, who suffered from dementia interspersed with periods of excitement. In this case, a condition which is spoken of as *multiple angioma of the brain with subsequent calcification* was found. It is to be hoped and expected that the hospital which has thus so auspiciously begun its pathological work will continue it with augmenting ardor and interest.

M.

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**Elektro-diagnostik und Electro-therapie.** Von DR. E. REMAK. Reprint from *Eulenburg's Real-Encyclopädie* (Urban & Schwarzenberg, Vienna and Leipzig, 1886).

The reprint before us includes the two articles in Eulenburg's well-known Encyclopædia, on Electro-diagnosis and Electro-therapeutics. In ninety-four closely printed pages, the author has managed to array all the facts and most of the theories now accepted in medical electricity. Electro-physics are incidentally discussed, in addition to the subjects which the title indicates; this reprint constitutes, therefore, a fairly complete treatise on medical electricity, in many respects more complete than any text-book on medical electricity with which the reviewer is acquainted. Certainly no text-book can be said to give such a mass of information as this little pamphlet does. The references to the past and current literature are very full indeed. The most recent advances have been noted with great care, and so we find reference to Jolly's recent investigation into resistance, Erb's studies of the electrical conditions of the muscles in Thomsen's disease, Gessler's researches on the terminal motor-plates in their relation to the reaction of degeneration, Müller's electro-therapeutical suggestions, and Engel-skjöns fanciful electro-therapeutical laws, which are severely denounced. All these recent investigations and many more are discussed. The author's own, and the older Remak's investigations receive due, though not excessive, attention.